

-លេខ/No: D143-



**អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា**  
Extraordinary Chambers in the  
Courts of Cambodia

**ការិយាល័យសហចៅក្រមស៊ើបអង្កេត**  
Office of the Co-Investigating Judges  
Bureau des Co-juges d'instruction  
**សំណុំរឿងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ**  
Criminal Case File /Dossier pénal  
លេខ/No: 002/14-08-2006  
Investigation  
លេខ/No: 002/19-09-2007-ECCC-OCIJ

**ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា**  
**ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ**  
**Kingdom of Cambodia**

<p><b>ឯកសារទទួល</b></p> <p>DOCUMENT RECEIVED/DOCUMENT REÇU</p> <p>ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ (Date of receipt/Date de reception): ..... 23 / 03 / 2009 .....</p> <p>ម៉ោង (Time/Heure):..... 10.15 .....</p> <p>មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier: ..... SANN RADA .....</p>
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**កំណត់ហេតុនៃការស្តាប់បម្រើសាក្សី**  
**Written Record of Interview of Witness**

On the Twelfth of March, two thousand and nine, at 09.15 a.m.

We, **YOU Bunleng** (យូ ប៊ុនឡេង) and **Marcel LEMONDE**, Co-Investigating Judges of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (the "ECCC"),

With Mr. **HAM Hel** (ហាម ហៀល) and Mr. **LY Chantola** (លី ច័ន្ទតុលា) as Greffiers;

**Noting** the Law on the Establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, dated 27 October 2004 (the "ECCC Law");

**Noting** Rules 24, 28, and 60 of the ECCC Internal Rules;

With **BELL Sakpheapdey** (បែល សក្កិភក្តី) and **OUCH Channora** (អ៊ូច ចាន់ណូរ៉ា), sworn interpreters of the Extraordinary Chambers;

**Noting** the ongoing judicial investigation against **NUON Chea** (នួន ជា) and others, relating to charges of **Crimes against humanity** and **Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions dated 12 August 1949**, offences defined and punishable under Articles 5, 6, 29 (new) and 39 (new) of the ECCC Law;

Recorded the statements of a witness, who provided the following information regarding his personal identity:

Last name: **SUONG សុង**  
First name: **Sikoeun ស៊ីគឿន**  
Alias: **Kung កង់** or **Thorn ធីន**.

<p><b>ឯកសារបានចម្លងតាមរបៀបត្រឹមត្រូវ</b></p> <p>CERTIFIED COPY/COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME</p> <p>ថ្ងៃ ខែ ឆ្នាំ នៃការបញ្ជាក់ (Certified Date/Date de certification): ..... 23 / 03 / 2009 .....</p> <p>មន្ត្រីទទួលបន្ទុកសំណុំរឿង/Case File Officer/L'agent chargé du dossier:..... Ratanak .....</p>
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Born on 15 December 1936 in Chrôy Âmpil ជ្រោយអំពិល Village, Châmbâk ចំបក់ Subdistrict, Prêk Prasâb ព្រែកប្រសប់ District, Kratie ក្រចេះ Province.

Nationality: Cambodian  
Occupation: Living at home

Father's name: SUONG Kăk ស្នង កាក់ (deceased)

Mother's name: NOU Rên នូ រ៉េន (deceased)

Present residence at Kbal Spean ក្បាលស្ពាន Village, Malai ម៉ាឡៃ Subdistrict, Malai ម៉ាឡៃ District, Banteay Mean Chey បន្ទាយមានជ័យ Province.

Wife's name: TAING Huy Ēng តាំង ហ៊ុយអេង (living)

Children: 5

Previous criminal record: None

The witness declared that he can read, write and understand the Khmer language. Therefore, the original of this Written Record is written in the Khmer language.

The witness told us that he is not related to either the Charged Persons or to any of the Civil Parties.

The witness took an oath, in accordance with Rule 24 of the ECCC Internal Rules.

We advised the witness that an audio or video recording was being made of this Interview.

**Questions-Answers:**

**Q:** You were a close collaborator of Ieng Sary អៀង សារី at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1975 to 1979. Can you give us more precise information on the functioning of the Ministry and the effective powers of Ieng Sary អៀង សារី?

**A:** I would like to answer more precise questions.

**Q:** For example, was Ieng Sary អៀង សារី responsible for all decisions made at the Ministry?

**A:** Democratic Kampuchea was a communist country and so it was the party that decided everything, even on foreign affairs matters. This policy was defined by the leader of the party, Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត, and my own destiny depended on him. Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត nominated me to the Ministry and he also appointed me to the Kampuchean information

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agency. Another example is that the Ministry had responsibilities extending far beyond foreign affairs. It was also responsible for civil aviation. At one time, there was even discussion whether to transfer the administration of Phnom Penh to the Ministry, but Ieng Sary អៀង សារី opposed it.

**Q:** So, he was able to refuse and held real power?

**A:** Yes, but like me: I could also refuse to be appointed as head of the Kampuchean information agency, but Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត told me it was not a big job and that I could keep this activity. In fact, Ieng Sary អៀង សារី was more important than me because he was a member of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee, not because he was Minister of Foreign Affairs. At the Ministry he was in the same situation as I was with regard to Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត.

In fact, one must understand that two parallel structures existed at the Ministry: a governmental structure with a Minister and related services and a political structure with a party committee comprised of three persons, the president, SAU Hong សួរ ហុង (nephew of Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត), PHY Phuon ភី ភួន, head of security at the Ministry, and SO Sè ស៊ែ សែ, the wife of Pech Bunnareth ប៊ិច ប៊ុណ្ណារ៉េត (permanent representative of Democratic Kampuchea to ESCAP in Bangkok) and who was the secretary of the party's cell within the Ministry. The party committee at the Ministry and the party secretary in each Embassy were more important than the official governmental structure, because they reported directly to Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត. I will give a concrete example: When students and officials returned to Cambodia after April 1975, all their personal belongings (watches etc.) were taken away when they passed through the Embassy in Beijing. That decision was taken by Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត and executed by the party secretary at the Embassy. Ieng Sary អៀង សារី was not aware of that decision.

**Q:** But you explained that Ieng Sary អៀង សារី played an important role as a member of the Standing Committee.

**A:** That is correct. It is also true that he chaired the CPK Central Committee Commission on Foreign Affairs. But I do not know about those activities. I would like to add that in communist countries, it is normal that certain institutions are only fronts and have no members apart from the Chairman. This was the case for the Commission on Foreign Affairs, which was composed solely by Ieng Sary អៀង សារី, who reported directly to Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត.

**Q:** Can you specify the relationship between the Ministry "B-1" and the various offices and reeducation camps attached to it (B-2, B-32, K-15, B-20 etc.)?

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**A:** I note that I did not know about the existence of those camps. During my whole time in Phnom Penh, I was never able to leave the town. I never visited any of those camps. The only exception was B-20, a camp situated close to Stoeung Trang ស្ទឹងត្រង់ (Kompong Cham Province): I spent one month there when I arrived in Cambodia from Vietnam in April 1975. It was a transit camp at which I had the task of re-planting banana trees. There were hardly any political indoctrination meetings, only work meetings. There were also some self-criticism sessions, but not too many because we did not know each other very well. I recognize that the situation of the camp inmates was different according to their category. Personally, I was already a member of the party and, thus did not require political education in the camp, while for other categories the political education meetings were more important. They were necessary. With regard to the living conditions, I would say that they were normal. We had enough to eat, especially a lot of fruit.

**Q:** Taking into account your functions at the time, it seems astonishing that you did not know about the existence of other offices or camps, especially Boeung Trabek. Where did you think the students, officials and intellectuals who came back from abroad, were sent?

**A:** Quite frankly, I only learned of the existence of the camps, in particular Boeung Trabek, after 1979. The only time I met any diplomats coming back from abroad was in Phnom Penh at the end of 1975. I was chosen to welcome them upon their arrival from Beijing because some of them were my friends, for example the former president of the *Etudiants Khmers* in France, TAUCH Kham Doeun តួច ខាំមៀន, whose functions I had taken up in Paris. I was accompanied by IENG Sary អៀង សារី on this occasion. He was the one who spoke, but I cannot remember what was said.

**Q:** With regard to TAUCH Kham Doeun តួច ខាំមៀន, can you give more detail on the circumstances of his arrest?

**A:** It happened in March 1977 when Ieng Sary អៀង សារី was on official travel in Malaysia. TAUCH Kham Doeun តួច ខាំមៀន and his wife lived next-door to us and when they left, everyone thought that they were being sent to the countryside where he was going to teach English. His wife was happy about going to the countryside, which at the time was considered a promotion. It was not until after 1979 that I learned that they had been sent to S-21. I would add that TAUCH Kham Doeun តួច ខាំមៀន was very close to Ieng Sary អៀង សារី (Ieng Sary អៀង សារី having himself been president of *Etudiants Khmers*) and, in my opinion, this arrest could never have taken place had IENG Sary អៀង សារី been present in Phnom Penh.

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**Q:** Your ex-wife, Laurence Picq, does not share your opinion and has specifically stated that it is highly improbable that the arrest of TAUCH Kham Doeun តូច ខាំឡើន, a cadre at the Ministry, could have been decided without the consent of Ieng Sary អៀង សារី.

**A:** She is lying. And as I have already mentioned, other persons were supposed to be arrested, notably Keat Chhon ភាត ឈន់ and Thiounn Prasith ជួន ប្រសិទ្ធ, but IENG Sary អៀង សារី opposed their arrest, explaining to Pol Pot ប៉ុល ពត that if Keat Chhon ភាត ឈន់ and Thiounn Prasith ជួន ប្រសិទ្ធ were to be arrested, he might as well shut down the Ministry.

**Q:** All the same, it is unquestionable that people from the Ministry were arrested. Are you telling us that you were never aware of one single arrest?

**A:** Yes. I was not aware. People disappeared but I did not know that they had been arrested.

**Q:** You have explained that you did not know about the existence of Boeung Trabek and Chraing Chamres. Is that correct?

**A:** In fact, with regard to Chraing Chamres, I was there once but I did not know that the camp was subordinated to B-1. As for Boeung Trabek, I confirm that I only discovered its existence after 1979.

**Q:** In your interview on 19 December 2007, however, you stated that you had never been to Boeung Trabek but that that you saw CHAU Seng ថៅ សេង and VANN Piny វ៉ាន់ ពីនី at B-1 and, who told you that they were at Boeung Trabek. So you did know of its existence.

**A:** I did not believe what they said and I did not know what they were talking about. Under the Democratic Kampuchea regime, people only knew what they were authorized to know.

**Q:** During the same interview, you spoke of a meeting during which Ieng Sary អៀង សារី talked about implicated people, in particular TAUCH Kham Doeun តូច ខាំឡើន .

**A:** Ieng Sary អៀង សារី only reiterated the party's position.

**Q:** How can you say today that you were never aware of arrests when you stated on 19 December 2007 that to your knowledge, people who were being implicated by three persons were arrested?

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**A:** That was the theory. But in practice, I noticed that it did not work like this. I, for example, was implicated four and a half times (four times by name and one half time because a student coming back from Moscow had accused everyone coming back from France of being revisionists, and since I had come back from Paris I was implicated but not by name, so this counted only as half-implication). I would like to add that there might be a problem of translation with the word "document": in Khmer "ekasar" generally means "document", but in Democratic Kampuchea this word was used in the sense of "accusation". The implications were added up, taking account of the person from whom they originated.

**Q:** How do you explain that your ex-wife declares that she knew about arrests and that she even saw Ieng Sary អៀង សារី brandishing confessions while explaining that traitors had been identified? If she is telling the truth, how could you not have been aware, taking into account her position at the Ministry compared to yours? Is it realistic to think that she knew more than you?

**A:** I maintain that I never personally saw an arrest. I do not contest that Ieng Sary អៀង សារី have shown confessions in my presence, but they were people who did not work at the Ministry. I am under the impression that you are questioning my honesty. I would like to state that I am the only former Khmer Rouge intellectual having agreed to speak, regardless of the risks this might incur. I do this because I love my country and I support the current government for what it has done for the country. I would like to add that I was Khmer Rouge until 1975 because the Khmer Rouge were not wrong until then, but they subsequently betrayed their ideals.

The original of the audio-visual recording was sealed before the witness and was signed by us, the greffiers and the witness.

A copy of the Written Record was provided to the witness.

At 12.40 p.m. we asked the Greffiers to read out this Written Record of Interview of witness as recorded;

After the Written Record was read, the witness stated that he had no objections and agreed to sign it.

witness                      Interpreters                      Greffiers                      Co- Investigating  
Judges